

GROUND WATER PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary for July 15, 2003

PLEASE NOTE:

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on
Tuesday, September 16, 2003 from 9 AM – 11 AM,
Department of Environmental Quality, First Floor
Conference Room, 629 East Main Street, in Richmond.

Contact Mary Ann Massie at 804-698-4042 for details

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Chris Adkins, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Rebecca S. Askew, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Jody Aston, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Division of Soil and Water
Conservation

Wyatt Little, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Mary Ann Massie, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Nancy Miller, Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department (CBLAD)

Larry Syverson, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Waste Division

Others:

Frank Dukes, facilitator, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia

Christine Gyovai, recorder, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia

Josh Rubenstein, Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA)

Agencies not in attendance:

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME)

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Department of Business Assistance (DBA)

AGENCY UPDATES

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Wyatt Little reported on the Community Development Block Grants that DHCD has awarded for drinking water projects. -Mr. Little distributed the following information:

- (May 2003) \$100,000 to Tazewell County for the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Small Water Project Demonstration Program through the Community Development

Block Grant Program (CDBG). DHCD allocates the funds on a competitive basis to eligible non-metropolitan cities, counties, and towns. The grants represent proposals for funds that are open during January through September of 2003. In accordance with federal laws, the majority of people served by CDBG projects are low- and moderate-income persons.

- (June 2003) \$5.5 million in 2003 CDBG offers will be used to connect 794 homes and 1,926 people in seven localities (Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Wythe and the Town of St. Paul (letter of intent)) in Southwest Virginia to clean and reliable water supply systems. This represents a \$2 million increase in CDBG funding for water projects in the region, compared to last year. DHCD allocates the funds on a competitive basis to eligible non-metropolitan cities, counties, and towns. In accordance with federal law, the majority of people served by CDGB projects are low- and moderate- income persons.
- (June 2003) As of June 2003, at least 41 counties had applied to the Dry Well Replacement Program (DWRP) and 144 projects had been set up under the DWRP. Approximately \$747,444 in funding has been obligated and \$424,172.82 has been spent. A total of \$2.5 million has been provided for the DWRP.
- (July 2003) \$500,000 in funds from the Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation Program towards Bayview Rural Village in Northampton County, Virginia. IPR provides low interest, deferred, and forgivable loans in non-CDBG entitlement cities and counties for the installation of indoor plumbing to owners of substandard housing where indoor plumbing does not exist, or where the existing water delivery or waste disposal systems have failed. Loan repayments are determined by the homeowners' ability to make payments. The program also provides for the general rehabilitation of these units and for accessibility improvements to units occupied by persons with disabilities or where overcrowded conditions exist.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Office of Drinking Water (ODW)

Chris Adkins reported that VDH recently awarded a contract for source water protection efforts to Olver Inc. of Blacksburg, which is offered on a year-by-year basis with renewal options for four years. The Virginia Department of Health is working to integrate source water protection efforts with local ordinances and business plans.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Rebecca S. Askew indicated that the Agriculture Stewardship Act Program is compiling its annual report. Perita Giles at (804) 786-5175 (pgiles@vdacs.state.va.us) will be the appropriate Steering Committee contact person for VDACS for the upcoming months.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Water Resources Management

Mary Ann Massie reported that the upcoming Ground Water Festival will take place September 25, 2003 at Camp Brady Saunders in Goochland County. Plans are currently in progress to determine which school will attend the festival, as well as the total number of students participating. Concurrent surface water activities may accompany the festival this year.

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Jody Aston reported that the deadline for proposals for the combined EPA 319 non-point source pollution and Coastal Zone program grants was July 11, 2003. DCR is considering extending the deadline with the hopes of receiving more proposals.

Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department (CBLAD)

Nancy Miller reported that CBLAD has hired three new senior planners. CBLAD is also hiring two new principal planners, at which point the agency will be almost fully staffed. Another planner departed the agency in early July, and when this position is filled it will allow one agency liaison for each Planning District.

CBLAD is currently conducting compliance evaluations of local programs which implement the Bay Act and Regulations. These evaluations provide localities with recommendations about meeting the requirements of the Act through local ordinances, policies and practices. CBLAD staff will work closely with each local government to conduct the compliance evaluations, and the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board will adopt the resulting recommendations with deadlines for compliance to be met by the localities.

CBLAD is hosting its annual workshop on September 17, 2003 at the Holiday Inn in Richmond for local government staff members who manage local Bay Act programs. A small number of others are invited, due to space limitations, and Tayloe Murphy, the Secretary of Natural Resources, will provide the opening remarks.

OTHER UPDATES

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The following agency update was made in absentia:

- Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater Study: an international symposium will be held at USGS Headquarters, Reston, in late September for the purpose of planning a multi-thousand-foot deep core hole through the crater center at Cape Charles during the summer of 2004.
- Virginia Coastal Plain Ground Water Study: GIS analysis is nearing completion of the hydrogeologic framework of the entire Virginia Coastal Plain and adjacent areas. Historical ground water withdrawal data also are being compiled. Both sets of information will soon be utilized as calibration of the revised ground water flow model of the Virginia Coastal Plain is undertaken.

- Virginia Aquifer Vulnerability Study: the data-compilation report has received USGS Director's approval and is being prepared for publication on-line. The interpretive report is undergoing technical review.
- Virginia Eastern Shore Ground Water Study: ground water age-date sampling will be undertaken during September to provide supportive information for calibration of a revised ground water flow model of the Virginia Eastern Shore.
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Ground Water Studies: a 3-year effort has begun to synthesize results of diverse geologic and hydrologic investigations being conducted in the several counties north of Waynesboro. Planned efforts to augment the county studies include sinkhole mapping, ground water age-date sampling, and the establishment of up to 18 real-time ground water-level observation wells.
- Virginia Beach Ground Water Study: an interpretive report is being written to document results of the southern watershed ground water flow model of the Yorktown-Eastover aquifer. A future study could focus on the deeper Potomac aquifer.

Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA)

Josh Rubenstein reported that the VWRA website contains a listing of current courses and trainings offered through VWRA. He indicated that most of his time has been spent on the state water policy Technical Advisory Committee work. He attended an international conference on Karst terrain in June of 2003. Mr. Rubenstein found the European presentations on karst delineation to be very useful, especially with regard to matching contaminate characteristics to specific areas of protection. A copy of the plans from the conference will be available on CD in the near future.

VIRGINIA'S KARST PROGRAM

Wil Orndorff gave a presentation on the Virginia Karst Program. The slide presentation is attached.

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The first draft of the GWPSC Annual Report was circulated among Committee members, and comments and revisions were discussed. Comments included:

- Adding titles for images
- Improving graphics
- Grammatical corrections
- Correcting contact information for people

The final Annual Report will be available at the September Steering Committee meeting.

